

Chrysanthemum plant named 'AGAPI'

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

'Agapi' is a product of a breeding and selection program for outdoor pot mums (garden mums) which had the objective of creating new chrysanthemum cultivars with a decorative type flower, a natural season flower date around September 8 - 12; blooming for a period of 5 weeks. The new plant of the present invention comprises a new and distinct cultivar of Chrysanthemum plant 'Agapi' is a seedling resulting from the open pollination among groups of chrysanthemum cultivars maintained under the control of the inventor for breeding purposes. The new and distinct cultivar was discovered and selected as one flowering plant by Mark Roland Boeder on a cultivated field in Rijssenhou Holland in September 2001. The plant has been asexually reproduced by cuttings in greenhouses at Rijssenhou Holland. The new cultivar has been found to retain its distinctive characteristics through successive propagations.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention of a new and distinct variety of chrysanthemum is shown in the accompanying drawings, the color being as nearly true as possible with color photographs of this type.

FIG. 1 shows a plant of the cultivar in full bloom.

FIG. 2 shows the various stages of bloom and foliage of the new cultivar.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

This new variety of chrysanthemum is of the botanical classification *Chrysanthemum morifolium*. The observations and measurements were gathered from plants grown out door in Rijssenhou, Holland under natural day length and temperature and planted in week 23 in 2002. The natural blooming date of this crop was September 8 - 13 (week 37). The average height of the plants was 35 cms. No growth retardants were used. No tests were done on disease or insect resistance or susceptibility. No tests were done on cold or drought tolerance. This new variety produces medium sized blooms with pink ray florets and a yellow center blooming for a period of 5 weeks.

From the cultivars known to inventor the most similar existing cultivar in comparison to 'Agapi' is 'Lynn' (USPP 8,171). When 'Lynn' and 'Agapi' are being compared the following differences are noticed: The differences of 'Lynn' and 'Agapi' are (1) Color of center of flower. The center of flowers of 'Lynn' is purple, while that of 'Agapi' is yellow. (2) Plant vigor. The vigor of 'Lynn' is low, while that of 'Agapi' is high.

The following is a description of the plant and characteristics that distinguish 'Agapi' as a new and distinct variety.

The color designations are taken from the plant itself. Accordingly, any discrepancies between the color designations and the colors depicted in the photographs are due to photographic tolerances. The color chart used in this description is: The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, edition 1995.

Table 1. Botanical Description of cultivar 'Agapi'

Bud

Size	small ;cross-section 0.6 cm, height 0.7 cm
Outside Color	Greyed-yellow 160A
Involucral bracts	2 rows, length 7 mm, width 3 mm
Involucral bracts among disc-florets	Not present
Involucral bracts color	Green 138B

Bloom

Type	Decorative
Size	Medium
Fully Expanded	5 cm
Peduncle length	8.5 cm
Peduncle color	Yellow-green 147D
Number of blooms per branch	Approx. 9 blooms per branch
Performance on the plant	5 weeks
Seeds	Produced in small quantities, ovate grey-brown 199A, 1½ mm in length.
Fragrance	Typical chrysanthemum, slightly

Color

Center of the flower	Immature Red 51C Mature Yellow 14A
Color of upper surface of the ray-florets	Purple 75A

Color of the lower surface of the ray-florets Purple 75C

Tonality from Distance A garden mum with pink flowers and a yellow disc

Color of the uppersurface of the ray-florets after aging of the plant Purple 75B

Ray florets

Texture Upper and under side smooth

Number 150 -170

Cross-section flat

Longitudinal axis of majority straight

Length of corolla tube 0.5 cm

Ray-floret margin Entire

Ray-floret length 3 cm

Ray-floret width 0.5 cm

Ratio length / width high

Shape of tip rounded

Disc florets

Disc diameter 1 cm

Distribution of disc florets Few, only present in mature stage

Shape Tubular

Color Yellow-green 154D

Receptacle shape Domed raised

Reproductive Organs

Stamen	Present in disc florets only
Stamen color	Yellow-green 144A
Pollen	Produced in small quantity
Pollen color	Yellow 7A
Styles	Thick
Style color	Yellow 10A
Style Length	4 mm
Stigma color	Yellow-green 144A
Stigma Width	1 mm
Ovaries	Enclosed in calyx

Plant

Form	A outdoor mounded and round garden mum
Growth habit	Spreading
Growth rate	High
Height	35 cm
Width	55 cm
Stem Color	Green 138C
Stem Strength	Weak
Stem Brittleness	Medium
Stem Anthocyanin Coloration	Absent
Internode lenght	3 cm

Length of lateral branch	From top to bottom 17 cm
Lateral branch color	Green 138C
Lateral branch, attachment	Medium strenght
Branching (average number of lateral branches)	Good with 6 – 7 breaks after pinching
Natural season blooming date	SEPTEMBER 8 - 12

Foliage

Leaf color	Upper side Green 139B Under side Green 138B
Color midvein	Upper side Yellow-green 147D Under side Yellow-green 148D
Size	Medium; length 5.5 cm, width 4 cm
Quantity (number per lateral branch)	20
Shape	Cordiform
Texture upper side	Glabrous
Texture under side	Pubescent
Venation arrangement	Palmate
Shape of the margin	Serrated
Shape of Base of Sinus Between Lateral Lobes	Rounded
Margin of Sinus Between Lateral Lobes	Diverging
Shape of Base	Obtuse
Apex	Mucronate

Petiole lenght

1.5 cm

Petiole color

Yellow-green 147D

Table 2. Differences with the comparison varieties

	'Agapi'	'Lynn'
Color center of flower	Yellow 14A	Red-purple 70A
Vigor	High	Low